

Licensed Group Care Facilities

Through the Department of Health and Human Services, a State license is required to operate a Residential Group Care Facility. One portion of the licensing requirement includes a fire and life safety inspection. On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of the State Fire Marshal or his appointed designee will conduct the initial inspection and all required subsequent inspections. A license issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to operate a Residential Group Care Facility is contingent upon a satisfactory fire and life safety inspection and issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

Definitions

NRS 449.017 “Residential facility for groups” defined.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, “residential facility for groups” means an establishment that furnishes food, shelter, assistance and limited supervision to a person with an intellectual disability or with a physical disability or a person who is aged or infirm. The term includes, without limitation, an assisted living facility.

2. The term does not include:

- (a) An establishment which provides care only during the day;
- (b) A natural person who provides care for no more than two persons in his or her own home;
- (c) A natural person who provides care for one or more persons related to him or her within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- (d) A halfway house for recovering alcohol and drug abusers; or
- (e) A facility funded by a division or program of the Department of Health and Human Services

NAC 449.1591 “Category 1 resident” defined. ([NRS 449.0302](#)) “Category 1 resident” means:

1. In a residential facility with not more than 10 residents, a resident who, without the assistance of any other person, is physically and mentally capable of moving himself or herself from the room in which the resident sleeps to outside the facility in 4 minutes or less; or

2. In a residential facility with more than 10 residents, a resident who, without the assistance of any other person, is physically and mentally capable of moving himself or herself from the room in which the resident sleeps to the other side of a smoke or fire barrier or outside the facility, whichever is nearest, in 4 minutes or less.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Health by R003-97, eff. 10-30-97)

NAC 449.1595 “Category 2 resident” defined. ([NRS 449.0302](#)) “Category 2 resident” means:

1. In a residential facility with not more than 10 residents, a resident who, without the assistance of any other person, is not physically or mentally capable of moving himself or herself from the room in which the resident sleeps to outside the facility in 4 minutes or less.

2. In a residential facility with more than 10 residents, a resident who, without the assistance of any other person, is not physically or mentally capable of moving himself or herself from the room in which the resident sleeps to the other side of a smoke or fire barrier or outside the facility, whichever is nearest, in 4 minutes or less.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Health by R003-97, eff. 10-30-97)

Licensed Group Care Facilities are categorized by number of clients and the level of care needed for each client (category 1 or 2). The licensing agency will determine whether the category for each patient based on his or her ability at self-evacuation. Together, the number of clients and care given will translate to an occupancy type (R-3, R-4, I-2) as defined by the International Fire Code. It is this occupancy type that will determine the minimum fire and life safety requirements for each facility.

Licensed Care Facility Matrix

| Classification | Amount | comment | Occupancy (IFC) |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Home for Individual residential care (HIRC) | 2 or less | 24 hour limited supervision | R-3 |
| Residential care group facility | 2 or less | any combination of category 1 or 2 | R-3 |
| Residential care group facility | 3 to 5 | any combination of category 1 or 2 | R-3 |
| Residential care group facility | 6 to 16 | Category 1 | R-4 |
| Residential care group facility | 6 to 10 | any combination of category 1 or 2 | R-4 |
| Residential care group facility | 11 to 16 | any combination of category 1 or 2 | I-2 |
| Residential care group facility | 17 or more | any combination of category 1 or 2 | I-2 |

Fire Protection Requirements

| IFC occupancy | Comment | Interconnected smoke detectors | Fire alarm | Fire sprinkler |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| R-3 | 2 or less occupants any combination of category 1 and 2 | Required | Not required | Not required |
| R-3 | 3-5 occupants any combination of category 1 and 2 | Required | Required | Required NFPA 13, 13R, 13D (NRS 449.017) |
| R-4 | 6-16 occupants category 1 | Required | Required | Required NFPA 13, 13R, 13D (NRS 449.017) |
| R-4 | 6-10 occupants any combination of category 1 and 2 | Required | Required | Required NFPA 13, 13R, 13D (NRS 449.017) |
| I-2 | 11 or more any combination of category 1 and 2 | Required | Required | Required NFPA 13 (IFC) |

In general, a sprinkler system is not required in an occupancy classified as R-3 with 2 or less occupants unless it is required by another section of the IFC. A sprinkler system in an R-4 maybe designed in accordance with the guidelines in NFPA 13, 13D or 13R. An I-2 Occupancy must follow the guidelines of NFPA 13.

A fire alarm system is not required in R-3 occupancies unless a fire sprinkler system has been installed with more than 20 sprinklers. Single or multiple station smoke alarms are required. They shall be interconnected and in new construction are required to receive their power from building power with a battery backup. Smoke detectors shall be located:

- A. On the ceiling or wall outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom.
- B. In each sleeping room
- C. On each building level including basement.

A single station Carbon Monoxide alarm is required in Group I and R occupancies in such buildings that contain a fuel-burning appliance or have an attached garage.

Carbon Monoxide alarms are not required in sleeping units that do not contain a fuel appliance or have an attached garage, but are located in a building that contains a fuel-burning appliance or has an attached garage if:

- A. The sleeping or dwelling unit is located more than one story above or below a story which contains a fuel burning appliance or attached garage.

B. The sleeping or dwelling unit is connected to the fuel burning appliance or attached garage by duct work or ventilation.

C. The building is equipped with a common area carbon monoxide alarm system.

*These requirements are not all inclusive and are only a general guideline and may be amended at any time.